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SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

MEDICINE AS A CAREER¹

Students of Medicine: You have chosen your life work. You have elected to devote your time and energy to the science and art of medicine. It is hoped that you fully realize the importance of this decision and that you have not come here without adequate deliberation and comprehension of the heavy tasks you have assumed in taking this step. In view of the possibility that some of you have made a mistake, I have decided to spend this hour in presenting to you a few of the duties and obligations which you are assuming and if there be among you those who feel that the burdens to be borne are too heavy and the personal gain too light, let such not hesitate to stop and turn back on the threshold. Medicine needs recruits, but it desires and will accept only those who, after severe tests, it deems worthy. I am aware of the fact that the words of the experienced fall lightly upon the ears of the inexperienced, but one who has served in the ranks for nearly forty years offers you advice. I wish to say that the fatality among medical students is great. In the past ten years, less than sixty per cent. of those who have entered this school have succeeded in winning its diploma, and of those who have gained this distinction not all have fulfilled the confidence imposed in them by the faculty. It is not my expectation that you will do better than preceding classes.

Medicine embraces all facts which may be utilized in the prevention or alleviation of diseases. Its chief contributory sci-

¹ Address at the opening of the University of Michigan Medical School, October 3, 1916.